

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229521
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DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0421

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229521

EXDIS FO AMB. YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 3159 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAR ES
SALAAM GABORONE LAGOS LONDON MAPUTO PRETORIA SEP 11.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3159

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH

SUBJ: USG CONCERN OVER MOUNTING VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA

REF: STATE 227288

1. CHARGE MADE POINTS IN REFTEL TO UNDER SECRETARY FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS ZIMBA SEPTEMBER 11; ALL OTHER TOP RANKING
FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS ARE AT MULUNGUSHI. ZIMBA EXPRESSED
SYMPATHY FOR USG'S POINT OF VIEW, STRESSING THAT ZAMBIA
TRADITIONALLY HAS CONDEMNED VIOLENCE. HE DEPLORED THE
SHOOTING DOWN OF THE VISCOUNT AND SUBSEQUENT KILLING OF
SURVIVORS. HE SAID HE COULD NOT COMPREHEND WHY NKOMO HAD
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PAGE 02 STATE 229521

CLAIMED CREDIT FOR SHOOTING DOWN THE AIRCRAFT. IN HIS
VIEW, THE JUSTIFICATION THAT THE AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE BEEN
CARRYING MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WAS FLIMSY IN
THE EXTREME. ZIMBA SAID HE STILL WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT
THE PLANCE WAS SHOT DOWN; ENGINE FAILURE WAS FAR MORE LIKELY.
BY CLAIMING ZAPU HAD SHOT THE PLANE DOWN, NKOMO HAD PLAYED
INTO SMITH'S HANDS AND HAD PRESENTED HIM A STICK WITH WHICH

HE COULD BEAT ZAMBIA AND THE WEST.

2. COMMENT: ZIMBA'S FAILURE TO JUSTIFY THE SHOOTING DOWN
OF THE VISCOUNT DIFFERS SUBSTANTIALLY FROM KAUNDA'S PUBLICLY
STATED POSITION. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THAT KAUNDA'S PRIVATE
VIEW IS CLOSE TO THAT OF ZIMBA.

CLINGERMAN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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